Before we proceed

M 361 342 643 to the study of dwellings in that region, it is well to note that among all the western populations, the hut of the great chief, that is to say, the "chief of the [46] earth," Mfumu na Tse, is built separately, a little apart from the general alignment or facing the principal street. This hut is surrounded by a fence, and the enclosure contains the royal hut, the reception palace, and the huts of the chief's wives.

M ● 644 Entry into the chief's courtyard is forbidden to his subjects. Only the dignitaries are admitted there when royal audiences are held, and to receive them the chief holds court in the hut that serves as a reception building. All around the enclosure, the "chief of the earth" has special trees of the cactus family planted. This, we were assured by the future successor of the Mosengere chief of Penge, is a royal prerogative very strictly observed. The existence of this enclosure around the royal

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Fig. 29. Basakata Huts Connected by a Common Court.

dwelling recalls the custom in Banfumu villages of arranging the huts in family groups, and it seems to indicate a certain affinity between these different tribes.

M 342 In the region of the Ipanga-Batitu, besides the small hut whose roof has the oblique double slope and horizontal ridge and is covered with vegetal tiles, which serves as a secondary, temporary